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12 January 1951

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MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, OSO [redacted] (FRU/FEC)

FROM : Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board

SUBJECT : Establishment of Major Radio Base Station, [redacted]

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1. A meeting of the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board was held 11 January 1951 for the purpose of discussing the related problems associated with ADSO's recent approval to construct a major radio base station [redacted] with particular reference to the recording of the agreements already made between [redacted] OPC representatives and ADSO's concurrence with a recommendation that the OSO representative [redacted] administer this radio base.

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2. From a historical viewpoint the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board wishes to make you aware of the following:

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Last September, two members of the Communications Division went to [redacted] for the purpose of assisting the Area Communications Chief, [redacted] [redacted] locate a site for a major radio base station. Previous inspections by Home Office communications personnel had disclosed that a misconception had existed as to the capabilities for expansion of existing sites. [redacted] who had been aware of the need for a base site, had done some investigating prior to the arrival of [redacted] [redacted] and in the course of this investigation had approached [redacted] officials through OPC's representative in [redacted]. Initially [redacted] had offered CIA (OPC) space for a radio station at [redacted]. Later, however, [redacted] withdrew this offer and suggested in place of [redacted] the required space at [redacted]. It was at this point that the two Communications Division members arrived in [redacted]. After looking for a radio site nearer to [redacted] went with [redacted] OPC [redacted]. At this base they found more than adequate land and a willingness on the part of the [redacted] to allow CIA (OPC) to use it. After investigating the site from a technical viewpoint, [redacted] were satisfied that it met all technical and operational requirements. Further check on the operational requirements was made back to [redacted] and again [redacted] proved to be more than satisfactory.

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3. Upon return to the U.S. [redacted] submitted reports of their trip to the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board and a staff study was prepared on the most desirable site found - [redacted]. After study of this staff study, the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board then recommended to ADSO that the land be acquired and the station built. At that time, [redacted] was back from [redacted] and knew generally what was taking place. Also, at that time, since initial contact with [redacted] on the possibility of using [redacted] as a Communications radio base had been conducted through OPC, the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board recommended that the present holder of the "option" on [redacted] be authorized to continue the negotiations. For the next few weeks the staff study was polished preparatory to submission to ADSO. On 6 January 1951 word was received through OPC channels that [redacted] "generally agreed" to give the land required to CIA. Upon direct query, it was disclosed that the negotiations to date had been coordinated with [redacted].

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On the basis of this information, the staff study [redacted]

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was put before ADSO, who approved the establishment of the station at [redacted] with certain reservations which follow:

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- a. That the major radio station at [redacted] will be administratively under the Chief, FRU. 25X1A
- b. That the Chief, FRU, meet with the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board immediately and work out details to activate the Base prior to his departure [redacted]. 25X1A
- c. That a letter of agreement be obtained by the Chief, FRU from competent [redacted] authority to grant the use of sufficient land area [redacted] Base to serve the [redacted] needs of CIA. 25X1C
- d. That all other conditions required by current regulations be met after the agreement has been formally obtained.

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4. After discussion, the OPC representatives agreed to the OSO administration of this radio base station. Further, since it was not possible for the FRU Chief to meet with the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board, this letter of instruction would be prepared to inform the FRU Chief of points of discussion by the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board. 25X1A

A. Relative to discussions with the [redacted] and/or [redacted] toward obtaining written authorization for CIA use of the desired land at [redacted] AFB, the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board desires that you contact [redacted] as soon as possible after your arrival in [redacted] and inform him what has taken place. [redacted] can brief you on negotiations and agreements between [redacted] CIA to date. On the assumption that these agreements are not in written form, the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board desires you to secure written agreement [redacted] to include the following points: 25X1A
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- 1. The areas of land are to be as indicated on the attached drawings (5340-1 and 5340-2).
- 2. Agreement that the acquired land will be under CIA control until it is either turned back [redacted] by CIA or returned [redacted]. 25X1A
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- 3. Agreement that [redacted] will take such measures as is possible to treat [redacted] to protect CIA interests. 25X1A
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- 4. Agreement that CIA may take immediate action to initiate construction of the radio base. (CIA Commo will have an engineer [redacted] by 1 February 1951, if the Chief, FRU advises that such action is warranted.)
- 5. Agreement that CIA will have complete authority to man, operate, and administer this radio base.

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B. From an informational viewpoint the Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board wishes to make it known that while this radio base station will be under the administrative control of the Chief, FRU, the base will provide communications support for CIA [redacted] as required. Further, Communications Division will send an engineering team to [redacted] construct this station. This team will have authority to let contracts for the construction of the base and will be responsible to the Chief FRU and Washington for construction. 25X1C
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C. The Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board wishes to make it known that while it is understood that the [redacted] is currently being used for [redacted] communications, the land requirements and agreements referred to above apply only to the establishment of a major communications radio base and for security purposes, it is desired that no overt connection exist between this communications base and other [redacted] that may take place.

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FOR THE JOINT OSO/OPC COMMUNICATIONS BOARD:

[redacted]

Concurred in:

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[redacted]

*OSO/OPC Commo Bd Rep,
12 Jan 51*

[redacted]

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